[8th March 1961

Explosion (Engineering College Laboratory)

* 672 *Q.*—Sri A. A. RASHEED : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that an explosion occurred in the Laboratory of the Engineering College, Guindy, on the 24th November 1960;

(*b*) if so, the cause of the accident; and

(*c*) the number of persons injured?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) While conducting an experiment to determine the calorific value of a solid fuel, the wooden cover of an apparatus (which has been used in more than 20 such experiments before) got loose accidentally as a result of the breaking of a crucible. This resulted in the lid being thrown up to the roof of the building with some force and as the lid happened to hit the florescent electrical tubing, there was an explosive noise.

(*c*) The Assistant Lecturer in Chemistry sustained a minor injury on his forehead and three students felt a burning sensation in the eyes due to the splashing of alkaline water on their face.

Sri A. A. RASHEED : May I know the total damage caused to the laboratory by this explosion?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : I have not calculated in financial terms. As I have stated the apparatus itself got damaged. The florescent lamp was also damaged.

Aerodrome at Cape Comorin

* 673 *Q.*—Sri T. T. DANIEL : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to construct an aerodrome at Cape Comorin?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : No, Sir.

Sri T. T. DANIEL : May I know where there was a proposal during the Second World War to have an aerodrome constructed at Cape Comorin and that a railway from Tirunelveli to Cape Comorin should be extended to that area? May I know whether that proposal is now being pursued by our Government?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I am not aware of any such proposal. I may also tell the hon. Member that the Trivandrum aerodrome is quite near Cape Comorin and that there is a fine road connecting both the places. Therefore there may not be any justification for considering a proposal to have an aerodrome at Kanyakumari.